

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending in the application; with claims 1, 6, and 14 being independent. Claims 1, 6, and 14 have been amended to better define the present invention. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and favorable consideration in light of the remarks and claim amendments presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of the pending claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

The Examiner maintained the rejections of claims 1 and 4-5 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of Magai. Applicants disagree and respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding claim 1, Aotake merely discloses a personal computer, which runs application programs for carrying out processing such as recording, reproducing, editing and decoding stored video data (col. 5, lines 4-7; col. 9, lines 51-54). The software provides a tape setting dialog box 321 which allows a user to set various parameters to control the video recording (col. 26, lines 22-39; Fig. 8). Aotake further teaches that the user may alter the video recording mode through the user interface as shown in Fig. 8. Using a video recording mode field 327, the video recording mode indicating the bit rate information may be chosen from 4 different states: “high”, “normal”, “long”, and “network” (col. 28, lines 42-46; Fig. 8, 327). In order to properly inform the user regarding the status of a particular video recording mode, tape setting dialog box 321 further displays an information field 331, which displays a number of parameters, including a frame size (col. 29, lines 38-44; Fig. 8, 331). Aotake further teaches a table, as shown in Fig.

10, which displays specifications of various recording parameters associated with each of the four recording modes, (e.g., the size of a frame, a system bit rate, a video bit rate, a frame rate, etc.). (See col. 28, lines 47-50; Fig. 10.)

However, Aotake fails to teach or suggest, at least, “presenting to a user combinations of selectable number of imaging pixels and the image compression rates ..., wherein the number of imaging pixels and the image compression rates are each directly selectable,” as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner asserts that in Fig. 8, Aotake clearly discloses a setting screen (321) which displays all setting information fields in a two-dimensional arrangement, the field (327) is displayed where the “compression rates” and the field (331) is displayed and includes a number of imaging pixels, e.g., a pull-down menu 327 is considered as the “selectable candidates” for selecting a video recording mode; each of these selectable video recording modes associates with a number of imaging pixels and image compression rates; and the table of Fig. 10 shows all of the video recording modes considered as “combinations” for the user to select a number of imaging pixels and image compression rates.

As the Examiner admits, the user may select from pull-down menu 327 from a plurality of four different modes which are merely associated with the number of imaging pixels and image compression rates. Aotake is distinguished from the present invention in that Aotake merely allows the user to select from a limited set of modes, and cannot directly select the number of imaging pixels and image compression rates.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1. Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1, and are allowable at least by virtue of their

dependency from allowable claim 1.

The Examiner maintained the rejections to claims 6, 9-10, and 14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Magai. Applicants disagree and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Regarding claims 6 and 14, Takahashi discloses an image acquisition device, which can detect the motion of image data and set a transmission condition of the image data in accordance with the detection of the motion of the image data, and process the image data in accordance with the set transmission condition. (see abstract). Based upon the information set by the user of the video camera by operation switch 135, coded data for a transmission and timing are generated by using the digital signal processing circuit, the control circuit etc., and the image data may be transmitted through the wireless antenna 111 by spread spectrum transmission circuit 110 by the set transmission method and transmission image quality (col. 6, lines 14-24). Through a user interface as shown in Fig. 7, a user may change the modes of the video camera through a variety of selection switches. For example, a manual/standard selection switch 701, a sports mode selection switch 702, a portrait mode selection switch 703, and a fault mode selection switch 704 are provided. (See col. 6, lines 34-38; Fig. 7). Specifically, parameters which can be set in the manual mode include a horizontal image angle size, a vertical image angle size, the number of pixels per frame, a frame rate (the number of frames/sec), etc. The respective parameters may be set in various manners by operating slide switches 705-710 (col. 6, lines 46-53; Fig. 7).

However, Takahashi fails to teach or suggest, at least, “a display control device that displays selectable candidates for a number of imaging pixels and image compression rates on

the setting screen of said display device, wherein the selectable candidates present combinations of directly selectable numbers of pixels and compression rates,” as recited in claim 6 (emphasis added), and “displaying selectable options for image compression rates and image pixel quantities, wherein the image compression rates and image pixel quantities are each directly selectable using the selectable options,” as recited in claim 14 (emphasis added).

The Examiner asserts that “the Takahashi reference discloses in Fig. 7, a display displays selectable modes such as a Manual/Standard mode, a Sports mode, a Portrait mode and a Full-Auto mode. The each of the selectable modes includes the parameters such as the number of imaging pixels and compression rate. The setting ratios of number of imaging pixels and compression rate are different in these selectable modes (see col. 6, lines 45-61).” The Examiner further asserts that “the selectable modes are considered as the selectable candidates for a number of imaging pixels and image compression rates on the setting screen of a display device, and presenting combinations of selectable numbers of pixels and compression rates. (See Office Action, page 4, paragraph 2.)

Applicants submit that Takahashi displays in Fig. 7 a number of preset modes including Sport mode (702), Portrait mode (703), and Full-Auto mode (704). With these modes, the setting ratios of the number of pixels, the frame rate and the compression rate are different. (See col. 6, lines 58-61.) These selectable modes, which the Examiner considers as selectable candidates, are merely presets which provide preset settings. Takahashi further discloses a Manual mode (701), which allows users to set a variety of parameters manually using sliders 705-710; wherein these sliders include pixel size (707) and compression rate (709-710). Takahashi is distinguished from the invention in that the selectable modes do not allow the user

to directly set the image parameters. In other words, Takahashi fails to disclose having “the selectable candidates present combinations of directly selectable numbers of pixels and compression rates.”

Magai fails to cure the deficiencies of Takahashi in this respect. Magai merely teaches a camera, where files may be re-read from a hard drive by user using a cursor.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 6 and 14. Claims 9-10 depend from claim 6 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 6.

Regarding dependent claims 2 and 3, Mizoguchi merely teaches an image recording device, which records images on the recording medium. The image recording device has a display unit that displays the remaining amounts of frames that may be recorded in memory (col. 3, lines 51-67; Figs. 1 and 2). Claims 2 and 3, by virtue of their dependency from claim 1, include all of the features recited in allowable claim 1 as provided in the arguments above, and are at least allowable for these reasons. Applicants submit that Mizoguchi fails to cure the deficiencies of Aotake and Magai in this respect, and therefore request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2 and 3.

In the Office Action, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Magai and Mizoguchi. Claim 7 depends from claim 6, and therefore includes all of the features recited in allowable claim 6. As presented above, Takahashi and Magai fail to teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 6. Mizoguchi fails to cure the deficiencies of these references in this respect, as Mizoguchi merely discloses an image recording device, which record images on a recording medium. The image recording device has

a display unit that displays the remaining amount of frames that may be recorded in memory.

Accordingly, claim 7 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from allowable claim 6. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 7.

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 22, 23, 25, and 26 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Magai, Mizoguchi, and Akazuka. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 8, 22, and 25 depend from claim 6 and include all the features recited therein. Claims 23 and 26 depend from claim 14 and include all the features recited therein. As provided above, neither Takahashi nor Magai nor Mizoguchi teach all the features recited in claims 6 and 14. Akazuka fails to cure the deficiencies in this respect. Akazuka merely teaches an image film device, which has a recording means, which computes the remaining number of images that can be stored in the remaining storage capacity. (See first paragraph, page 2.) Moreover, Akazuka discloses a display table, which presents in a tabular form data recording length based upon the combination of three modes. (See page 5, lines 22-23; page 6, table 1.)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 8, 22, 23, 25, and 26.

In the Office Action, claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of Magai. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 11 depends from claim 1, and includes all of the features recited therein by virtue of this dependency. Aotake, Magai and Takahashi fail to teach all of the features recited in allowable claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable by virtue of its dependency at least for the reasons

provided above for allowable claim 1.

Claims 12-13, 18-19, 21 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of Magai and Akazuka. Applicants disagree and respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, and 24 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features recited therein. Aotake, Magai, and Akazuka fail to cure the deficiencies of claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, and 24 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 1 and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Magai and Akazuka. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 15-17 depend from claim 14, and include all of the features recited therein. Takahashi, Magai and Akazuka fail to teach all of the features recited in allowable claim 14.

Accordingly, claims 15-17 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 14. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 15-17.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of Magai, Akazuka, and Mizoguchi. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 20 depends indirectly from claim 1, and accordingly includes all of the features recited therein. Aotake, Magai, Akazuka, and Mizoguchi fail to teach all the features recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 20 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from allowable

claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 2.

Conclusion

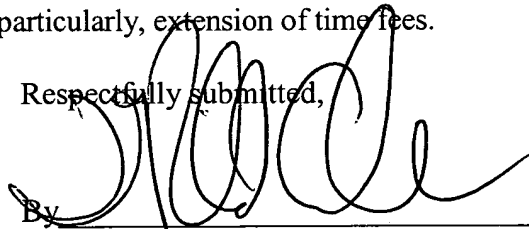
In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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